

BALANCING THE BUDGET FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, keeping promises is what it is all about, no more excuses, no more Washington gimmicks. It is time to do the right thing for America's future. Balancing the budget; that is what we have to do.

Just a few days ago we took an historic step by taking a vote to balance the budget. Unlike the past, when Americans were treated to empty promises and broken commitments, we are delivering.

A balanced budget is more than an accounting gimmick. It is about the future of my grandchildren and my colleagues' grandchildren, and it is about lower interest rates, it is about lower car loans, and it is about removing the crushing debt from our children and grandchildren.

Alan Greenspan said it best. He said, "Families' real incomes and purchasing power would be significantly improved; they would look forward to their children doing better than they," and that is what it is all about.

Mr. Speaker, when we balance the budget, we are securing the future of our children and grandchildren, and that is what families of America sent us here to do.

TAXPAYER-FUNDED POLITICAL ADVOCACY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the latest effort to keep the Republican's promise to the American people to end business as usual in Washington. Specifically, I am referring to the Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich amendment, which would put an end to taxpayer-subsidized lobbying. Currently, over \$39 billion is distributed to nearly 40,000 groups in the form of Federal grants. These funds are distributed under the guise of assisting charities. What these grants really amount to, however, is a taxpayer-funded subsidy to engage in political activity, otherwise known as welfare for lobbyists. Let me present an example of a politically active grantee and the amount that group receives.

The National Council of Senior Citizens receives nearly \$73 million—96 percent of its funds—from taxpayers. What do they do with that money? Well, let me quote from their latest progress report, issued January 1995, in which the National Council of Senior Citizens explicitly states that it "vigorously lobbies the Congress, public officials and other organizations engaged in legislative debate."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this group, and all of the other groups who

exploit their status as nonprofit organizations, to use their grants for their intended purpose to help those in need. The National Council of Senior Citizens could do much more to assist seniors if they would devote all of their time and money walking the halls of nursing homes, rather than walking the Halls of Congress.

WE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING PEACE IN BOSNIA TODAY

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today we will be taking up a resolution dealing with troops in Bosnia. This is highly premature and irresponsible, to be dealing with such a sensitive issue a day before the President is convening a session in Dayton, OH, among the warring parties in Bosnia to construct a peace agreement. We should not be dealing with this issue at a time when negotiations tomorrow will determine whether there will be a peace agreement or not.

Mr. Speaker, the administration deserves credit for coming forth with a peace plan that has brought a partition of this area that appears to be supported by the Serbs, by the Croatians, and by the Moslems. We should not interfere with this very sensitive process, and this legislation should be taken off the Calendar for today.

IT IS TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN A REAL BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is almost impossible to keep track of where Bill Clinton stands on balancing the budget.

In 1992, candidate Clinton said he would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget.

In his book "Putting People First," candidate Clinton said that the deficit could be cut in half in 4 years.

This year President Clinton has said that the budget could be balanced in 10 years, in 9 years, in 8 years, and, now, 7 years.

Everyone knows that Bill Clinton has been AWOL on the budget. He says one thing one day, another thing another day. Not even leaders in his own party can predict with any degree of accuracy what Bill Clinton will do or say.

Mr. Speaker, the time for excuses and double-talk are over. It is time for the President to show courage and leadership and sign a real balanced budget.

PUTTING GROUND FORCES INTO BOSNIA WOULD BE A WASTE OF AMERICAN LIVES

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I wish my friend from New Mexico was right because the House, as my colleagues know, has not scheduled a vote on Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, a week and 1 day ago I was visiting the troops in what was Yugoslavia and what now is Macedonia. They expressed concern over the introduction of ground forces into Bosnia.

In addition to all the other reasons not to put ground forces into Bosnia, it seems that from about December 1 until April 1, from 10 o'clock at night until 6 in the morning, the fog is so bad that smart weapons do not work. So we are putting troops in harm's way with no clear-cut purpose where there are three serial killers, one who has killed 15, one who has killed 10, and one who has killed 5. That is a waste of American lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is our job to vote on this issue. Give this Congress the vote. Let us fulfill our constitutional responsibilities.

THE REPUBLICANS ARE DELIVERING ON THE PROMISES THEY MADE

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, one of the definitive marks of the modern Republican Party is that we believe taxes are too high and that they should be cut. Since the beginning of this Congress, Republicans have put those beliefs into reality and soon they will become law.

For generations, public policy has been based on the premise that government could better redistribute wealth and resources in the economy. People who believed in free markets were written off as economic relics.

Well, the game is up and a generation of economic policy making has literally blown up in the faces of the liberals who created it. We have a massive, but ineffective government and a \$5 trillion national debt. The American people are demanding changes and Republicans are delivering on the promises we made last year to shrink the Federal Government, and, we will not back away from our promise to cut taxes for American families and small businesses.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1745

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1745.